

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LONDON 10570 051807Z
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C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 10570

EO 11652: XGDS-2
TAGS: ASEC
SUBJ: SECRETARY'S VISIT: POST INTELLIGENCE SURVEY

REF: A. STATE 115720 B. LONDON 8804

1. A REVIEW OF THE FILES OF THE RSO LONDON, CONSULTATIONS WITH OTHER AGENCIES AT POST AND LOCAL AUTHORITIES AND AN ANALYSIS OF CURRENT INTELLIGENCE AVAILABLE HAVE PRODUCED NO DIRECT IMMEDIATE THREAT TO SECRETARY VANCE IN CONJUNCTION WITH HIS TRIP TO LONDON. THERE IS A SIGNIFICANT MIDDLE EASTERN PRESENCE IN LONDON AND THERE HAS BEEN RECENT TERRORIST ACTIVITIES WITH A MIDDLE EASTERN CONNECTION, I.E., THE ASSASSINATION OF THE LONDON REP OF THE PLO, 1/4/78; CAR BOMB IN FRONT OF THE EGYPTIAN STATE TOURIST OFFICE, 12/31/77; AND THE ASSASSINATION OF THE FORMER N. YEMENI PREMIER, 4/10/77.

2. THERE HAS BEEN CONSIDERABLE PRESS INTEREST IN THE VISIT, AND THERE WAS A PRESS REPORT IN THE 7/5/78 EDITION OF THE TIMES FILED BY CHRISTOPHER WALKER, CAIRO TIMES CORRESPONDENT ON 7/4/78 THAT ALLUDED TO CONCERN AMONGST DIPLOMATIC CIRCLES CONCERNING TERRORISM AT THE LONDON CONFERENCE AND A POSSIBLE LINKAGE BETWEEN THE PROVISIONAL IRA AND THE PFLP. FCO HAS EXPRESSED THEIR CONCERN TO THE EMBASSY REGARDING THE TIMES ARTICLE AND THE SECURITY OF THE CONFERENCE.

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3. THE METROPOLITAN POLICE HAVE EXPRESSED TO RSO THEIR UNHAPPINESS CONCERNING THE CHURCHILL HOTEL AS THE CONFERENCE SITE. THEY HAVE POINTED OUT THAT IT HAS BEEN THE SITE OF SEVERAL BOMBINGS AND A SHOOTING INCIDENT. THE POLICE ARE ALSO CONCERNED WITH THE POSSIBILITY OF DEMONSTRATIONS AND THE DIFFICULTIES IN CONTROLLING TRAFFIC IN

FRONT OF THE HOTEL. THE POLICE POINTED OUT THAT WHEN PREMIER GOLDA MEIR VISITED LONDON, SHE STAYED AT THE CHURCHILL, AND THEY HAD PROBLEMS CONTROLLING DEMONSTRATORS. THE POLICE HAVE ALSO EXPRESSED THESE CONCERNS TO THE FCO WHICH HAVE RELAYED THEM TO EMB POLITICAL OFFICER.

4. PART OF POLICE UNHAPPINESS IS ATTRIBUTED TO THE FACT THAT THEY HAVE NOT BEEN CONSULTED IN PLANNING FOR THIS MEETING.

5. EMB WILL MEET WITH SPECIAL BRANCH TOMORROW TO DETERMINE ACTUAL EXTENT OF THEIR CONCERNS. IT IS POSSIBLE THAT POLICE WILL PROPOSE ALTERNATIVE SITES PRESUMABLY OUTSIDE LONDON AREA.

6. RSO HAS CONTACTED EMBASSY AND LOCAL OFFICIALS CONCERNING THE TIMES STORY AND WILL ADVISE ON FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS.

7. WE WILL ADVISE ASAP AFTER MEETING WITH POLICE ON THEIR VIEWS AND CONCERNS.

BREWSTER

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